

**From:** Ken Gilmore  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** settlement does nothing to help consumers

The proposed settlement doesn't force MS to do much except look for ways to get around the toothless provisions.

What would truly benefit consumers would be to force MS to make and sell a basic operating system that does not include any software or features except those needed to access the computer hardware and allow other programs to run. The focus should be on stability and security.

There are many good, capable, and innovative programs available from third-party developers. Many are completely free. They are designed to do a job well, with no hidden agendas. I use Mozilla for browsing the web, Pegasus Mail for email, Xnews for reading Usenet newsgroups, etc. There are extremely capable free programs out there for manipulating digital photos, for working with sound and video, for writing letters, keeping a database, tracking finances, etc.

Most people are unaware of these other options; they end up just using whatever came with Windows. The result is a huge competitive advantage for MS, and little incentive for MS to innovate or make their products secure. Why should MS care about making their email program immune to viruses when they have 95% of the market share? Answer: they don't care. The result is billions of dollars in losses for business and home users due to viruses and other security risks.

There is no need to tie the browser, email program, media player, or any other software to the operating system. The only reason MS does it is to force their programs on consumers and gain market share. Consumers benefit from competition and choice. They would benefit greatly from a stable and secure basic operating system.

Please reconsider the sanctions against MS. Consumers are being robbed of innovation and choice.

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